

Fall 2009 Turkey Hunting Outlook

There's good news for turkey hunters in much of the state this fall--poult production improved over last year's near record low. Hundreds of volunteers and MDC staff collected brood and hen data over the summer, and their statewide count yielded a poult-to-hen ratio of 1.2, up 8 percent from last year's count. Production was 16-48 percent better in the West Prairie, Ozarks West, Ozarks East, Mississippi Lowlands and Lindley Breaks turkey production regions, but 1-16 percent lower in the Northwest, Northeast, Union Breaks and Ozark Border regions (map below). Although the poult count was not as in good in the north, this part of the state still has some of the state's highest turkey populations.

Fall turkey hunting provides a tremendous opportunity to pursue this wily species. Relatively few people hunt in the fall, as last October's numbers demonstrate. Only 17,000 hunters pursued turkey in the October 2008 season, while more than 150,000 turkey hunters took to the field in the spring.

